

# The Alumni Anchor

Academic Year 2009-10

June 2010



## NROTC Unit

- CAPT Edward J. Campbell
- CDR Mark F. Volpe
- Capt Nathaniel Doherty
- LT Adam Christensen
- LT Jay Killen
- LT T.C. Bowers
- GySgt Joseph Olivas
- HR Tech Tim Hagey
- Supply Officer Dorothy Engle
- State Sec Cass Williams



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## Report from the CAPT

Well it stopped raining for 3 straight days so it must be time for the spring newsletter to populate the web site.

The conclusion of the spring term marks my first full academic year here at OSU including participation in all the annual events and festivities and boy did this spring term scream by! I'm not so sure the students saw it the same way as me but I felt that we were literally gasping for air as we came down the stretch for commissioning and graduation. But as usual, everything worked out well and we had some memorable events that the class of 2010 can look back upon with pride.

Speaking of the class of 2010, I

know this is my first graduating class but there are some REAL quality Ensigns and 2<sup>nd</sup>Lts that are about to hit the fleet. This was an extremely impressive

group and I was proud and honored to watch them accept their commission and walk across the stage at graduation. The many accomplishments of this class were highlighted by the selection of MIDN Erienne Kriesch as one of only nineteen female officers nation wide to be assigned to the inaugural class of women serving on submarines. We're tremendously proud of her and we have another 3 or 4 females in the battalion that are anxious to follow in her footsteps.

Again, this year flew by but we really packed a lot in. Admittedly I was

somewhat suspicious about the worth of the Northwest Navy event, but I have since become a believer. This year's competition was held at the University of Idaho

and it was a complete BLAST! Due to Mom's day in Idaho coinciding with NWN, there was absolutely no lodging within 40 miles of the university. As a result



CAPT Edward J. Campbell  
Commanding Officer  
Oregon State Naval Reserve  
Officers Training Corps

we had all the students sleep "camp style" in the university's athletic dome and this worked out great and was a lot of fun. In the end we placed third overall and UW was the overall winner. Regardless, we had a GREAT time and we will continue this tradition of competition. We've decide to have this event conducted at Idaho every year since it is the only venue that evenly remotely serves as an equal distance point for us and Utah.

Spring Ball and the Senior Mess night were equally outstanding events. The ball was once again held in the MU and we had a fantastic turnout. Instead of trying to



get one of the fleet Admirals to serve as our guest speaker, I opted to stay local and line someone up who had personal meaning to the students. Consequently we invited Senior Chief (Ret) Jones to be our honored guest and speaker and we couldn't have made a better choice. His talk to the battalion that night was warm, personal, and meaningful and resulted in a long standing ovation from the whole battalion. This year's Senior Mess night was conducted at the Corvallis Elks Lodge and this turned out to be a terrific venue and they were very supportive of our program.

One of the newer events we conducted this year was a university wide "O" course challenge where we invited all comers to test their metal and take on our Marines. We charged a 5 dollar entry fee to support the Semper Fi club and the OSO provided the prizes which ranged from a USMC



athletic bag to a sports watch. The turnout for this event was pretty light but we didn't have the requisite amount of time to advertise as much as we would have liked. We intend to repeat this event in the fall and have it as a preamble to the football game on dad's weekend. Hopefully this will be a bigger draw and provide some good visibility for our unit. FYI, it was a Navy MIDN (MIDN McAllister) that won the

com-



petition and smashed the existing "O" course record by completing it in 45 seconds!!

This year it was Navy's turn to host the Joint Service Review and if I do say so myself, we knocked the ball out of the park. This was a very impressive ceremony and we were fortunate enough to have The Commander Navy Region Northwest, RDML Symonds as our guest speaker. The Admiral also gave the address for the Spring Awards ceremony that followed later that day.



Frankly I didn't know what to expect from this event and secretly harbored some concern that it might turn out to be somewhat "hokey" but I couldn't have been more wrong. This was a tremendous event and I was proud to be a part of it.

As you well know, being somewhat removed from a fleet concentration area makes it difficult for us to have good hands on liaison with fleet units and avia-

tion squadrons, but we were fortunate to have the fleet come to us this year. Earlier in the winter term we had a great visit by the Golden Hawks of VAW 112 from Pt Mugu, California who spent a full day with us providing motivational briefs about their mission followed by a static display of their E-2C which was attended by over 20 of our aviation enthusiasts. We will be conducting a similar event with our other aviation sponsors, VAQ 131 from NAS Whidbey Island early in the fall. Additionally the aviation club embarked on some aggressive fund raising campaigns that netted them the required funding to support a visit up to Whidbey Island where the students will be able to visit a P-3 squadron and "fly" the simulators

on station.

In addition to the great support we received from the aviation side of the house, we had an equally exciting visit by our friends from the USS Bremerton, SSN-698 and they too provided a great brief and made themselves available for the day to answer individual student questions about the SSN community. Lastly, our

students had the opportunity to go up to Portland and tour the USS Sampson, DDG-102 during her visit for the Portland Rose Festival. This was another great opportunity that serves to keep the Midshipmen motivated and excited about following through and earning their commission.

On the business side of things, money remains tight throughout the Navy and we are no exception. As I've noted previously, the scholarships that we had at our disposal for College Program students all but dried up overnight which left a few of our students very disappointed and somewhat destitute. At that point we made a call out to our alumni for support and the response

was magnificent! The alumni really stepped up for us this year and I cannot thank them enough for their tremendous support. Speaking of alumni, we are es-

*"The Alumni really stepped up for us this year and I cannot thank them enough"*

establishing an alumni liaison billet in the battalion and that individual will be tasked with keeping a special page on the website up to date on all alumni activities including details on the Fall Ball which all alumni will be invited to this year. We had a very nice visit with some of our alumni during the university's golden jubilee this spring and we'd like to build more events like this into our calendar.

Another fallout of crumbling budgets is the Navy's decision to adopt the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) option for newly commissioned officers. In essence what this means is that all midshipmen (does not effect STA-21 or MECEP students) that receive their commission but have a delay in reporting to their next duty station or follow on training program will be sent to their home of residence to await notification of transfer date. During this time period they are considered to be on an inactive reserve status and consequently receive no pay until activated to proceed to next duty station. During their assignment to IRR, they still receive medical benefits (although their dependants will not) and this time counts for seniority and promotion purposes. I know this sounds like a raw deal but all the other services, including the Marines, have been doing this for quite a while already. This policy is set to start with our December graduates so all those who graduated this Spring and Summer are still protected from this process.

Speaking of Graduation, we just completed the commencement ceremony and commissioning for the class of 2010 and as I stated previously, this was a tremendous class of young Americans. We had a very unique event during our commissioning ceremony that I think you would like to hear about. MIDN Nicolai had requested to have his sister render his first salute which was fine except for the fact that she

was/is serving in Afghanistan. As it turned out the university's media experts were able to establish a live link with her for this ceremony and after 2<sup>nd</sup>Lt Nicolai, USMC swore his oath, he turned to face the big wall screen and right on cue his sister was there and she gave him his first salute. This was a very powerful and moving moment that was felt



throughout the whole auditorium. Not sure how we'll top that next year.

The other great part of our commissioning this year was that we were once again fortunate to have RDML Symonds as our honored guest and speaker. I was additionally honored to have the Admiral with us since this was to be the last formal event he would preside over as he is retiring on 25 June.

So now the summer is upon us and we will have time to collect our thoughts on how this year has gone and what we can do to make it better starting in the fall. While the students are off at their summer training events (CORTRAMID, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> class cruises, Mountain War-

fare Training, OCS, etc.) we will revamp our lesson plans and get ready for another New Student Orientation (NSO) period beginning September 17th – we are expecting almost 50 new students.

The last thing I have to pass to you is that after long last, we are finally finishing up design of a command coin. I'm not sure that we ever had one here but we will have them in hand in a few weeks and a better picture of the coin will be posted on the website. Next time you're in town, please drop by and see us so we can give you one of our coins for your collection.

Once again it is my very special honor to be the Commanding Officer of this unit



and the great tradition and pride it represents. As soon as we finalize the dates outlining all of our significant events for the 2010-2011 school year, we will post them on the website and hope to see some of you at each one. But as always, there is never a requirement for a special event to come visit us in the funny white building – please drop by anytime!

Gooooooooooooo Beavs!

V/r,  
CAPT Ed Campbell



## We want to hear from you!

We are asking for your assistance in updating our alumni roster, to include e-mail addresses, so we can more efficiently and economically keep in touch with our alumni.

Please e-mail your contact information, to include e-mail address to:

**Cass Williams — [state.sec@oregonstate.edu](mailto:state.sec@oregonstate.edu)**  
**(541) 737-6289**  
**(800) 888-499-6289**

Your assistance is appreciated and we look forward to hearing from you!



## MOI's Corner

The rains have subsided and we non-Oregonians of the NROTC have begun to recover from seasonal affective disorder. Though the rain seemed to last for ever, the second half of the year has flown by and with it the last months of freedom for many of our newest second lieutenants and ensigns.

Just as our students improve over time so does the unit. One small but significant event has been the implementation of "Meat Eater Friday." Another generous donation from the alum that would rather go unnamed has allowed us to purchase what the CO dubbed the "Mother of All Grills" or MOAG. Those who wish to, can now gather and cook the meat of their choice every Friday. Nothing brings together a team like good food and



conversation. Sadly there have been reports of "certain" members of a "certain" branch of service sneaking in veggie-burgers. We will be authorizing the appropriate level of force to ensure this doesn't happen again.

GySgt, now 1stSgt Lozano, has moved on to continue his legacy of leadership within the Corps. He will complete a summer tour as a company 1stSgt at OCS. After that, he will be assigned to Camp Pendleton as a 1stSgt. He leaves behind a unit which is grateful for the leadership and mentorship he has provided over the past three years. His replacement, GySgt Joseph Olivias is on deck and has already hit the ground running. He is another good piece of gear that will be doing some great things for the unit over the next three years.

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Most importantly, this spring we saw nine of our midshipman leave the ranks of student and finally

wear the title of U.S. Marine. They are headed for the most challenging and rewarding times of their lives. As with all Marine Corps officers, they will be headed for "The Basic School" in Quantico, Virginia. Here they will learn the tools needed to lead an infantry platoon in combat. They will also learn first hand that the Corps is not for the weak as they compete for their future career paths. They are now part of the great legacy of OSU graduates which continue to lead our military, our communities, and our nation. We are proud that they are joining your ranks. Thank you for your efforts, continued support, and Semper Fidelis to you all.

~Capt Nathaniel Doherty

## Thank You NROTC Alumni and Friends

Thanks to all the NROTC alumni and friends who donated money to the NROTC student organization fund. Your donations helped defray the out of pocket travel and lodging expenses incurred by Battalion members who travel to regional NROTC events.

It is easy to donate online...

- just go to our website at <http://nrotc.oregonstate.edu>

- click on the "Alumni" page and there is a window called "Support the Taffrail Fund"
- choose the amount of money you want to give by using the pull down arrow.
- click "Make a Gift"
- follow the directions and that's all there is to it.

You can also use "snail mail" to send a check in the mail.



Please make checks payable to **"NROTC Taffrail"** and mail to:

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Naval Science Department

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